HEART NO PRESENT

BY ENOMOTO CHIZURU

Scans

presents...

by Chizuru Enomoto

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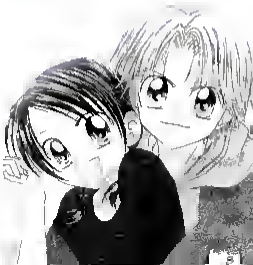

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AFTER SCHOOL IN THE GYM..
TSUBAKI-CHAN
IIDA-KUN
THE GIRLS WHO COME TO WATCH THE BOY'S BASKET-BALL TEAM...
TSUBAKI!!!
TROUBLE THE SUPER WEAK GIRL'S BASKET-BALL TEAM.
ALRIGHT...
GO! IID♥KUN!
SINCE THERE'S A GAME COMING UP, CAN YOU TELL IIDA TO MAKE THEM SHUT UP?
PLEASE CAPTAIN!

IIDA..
AND THEN THERE WAS.. ONE GUY WHO DIDN'T CARE ONE LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT
I DON'T LIKE TALKING TO THIS GUY...
WHAT...?
WHAT DOES THE SHORT AND TOTALLY BAD GIRL'S BASKETBALL CAPTAIN WANT WITH ME??
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?! ANYWAY, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LOUD AUDIENCE OUT THERE?
WHY? THEY'RE NO HARM
YOU KNOW WE HAVE A GAME IN A MONTH
HEY! YUKIMURA!

YE... YES, COACH...
AND THAT WAS...
YOU GUYS ARE HORRIBLE, WEAK AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE TEN REQUIRED PEOPLE! SO LIVE WITH IT!
UNLIKE THE BOYS, WHO WERE THIRD IN THE LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE GIRL'S TEAM HAD ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM TO FACE...
THEY'RE KINDLY LETTING YOU USE THE GYM, YOU KNOW! THE GUYS!
Yaka sensei
Coach
A CONVERSATION WITH ME IS A WASTE OF TIME?!
TAKASHI... LET'S GO BACK TO PRACTICE, THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME...
O... OF COURSE NOT!!
I'LL GO STRAIGHT BACK TO PRACTICE NOW!
IF YOU LOSE THE NEXT GAME, THEN YOUR TEAM MIGHT BE CANCELLED, YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT, HAVE YOU, YUKIMURA?
IF YOU WANT TO BE TALLER, DRINK MILK AND EAT MORE FISH

IF ONLY I WERE TALLER AND BETTER..
LIKE IIDA.
IF ANYONE COULD GROW TALLER LIKE THAT, LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE EASIER!!
IF ONLY I COULD JUMP...
AS HIGH AS THAT..

THEN BASKETBALL WOULD BE... MORE FUN...
BEFORE I THINK OF LIVING WITH OR WITHOUT IT...
AFTER A DAY WITH AN AUDIENCE, THERE'S ALWAYS A LOT OF GARBAGE!
IIDA, THE IDIOT! STUPID BUM!
HE SHOULD REALIZE THIS!
Garbage bag

WHY ARE YOU GETTING INTO A STANCE?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?! IT'S MORNING!
OH NO
I'M HERE FOR PRACTICE!
AN IDIOT AND A STUPID BUM
WELL, SORRY FOR BEING...
WHAT IS THIS?! IT'S GROSS!
TOOK HIM LONG ENOUGH TO NOTICE
STILL MAD ABOUT YESTERDAY?
WHY DO YOU CARE? JUST GO TO PRACTICE
DO YOU ALWAYS DO THIS KIND OF STUFF?
YEAH...
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

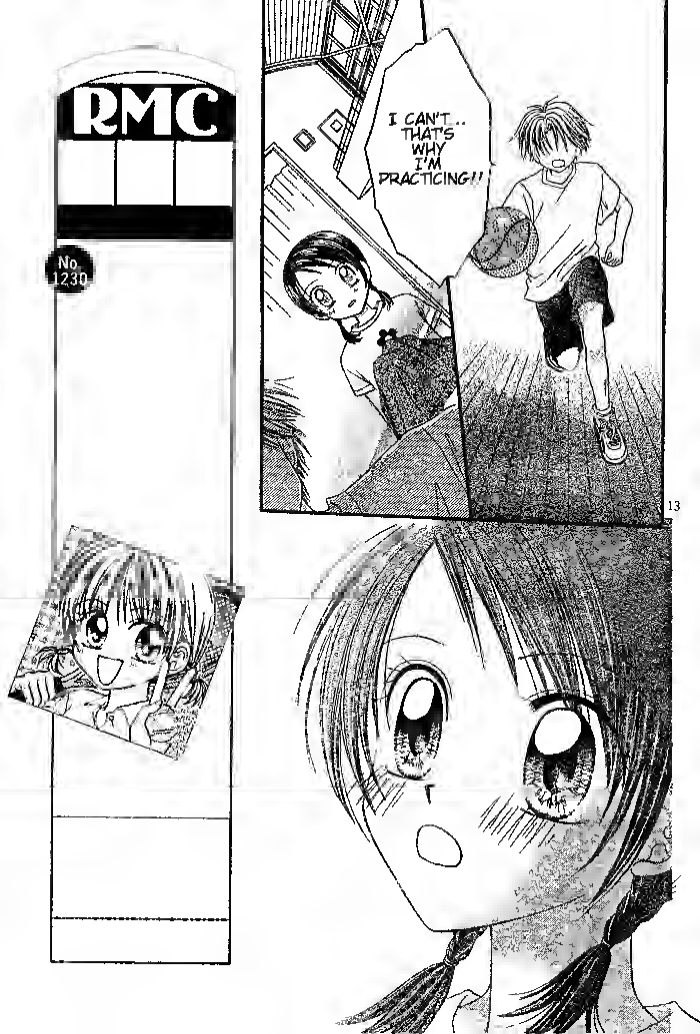
WE ALL USE THIS GYM ALL THE TIME.
WOULDN'T IT FEEL BETTER IF IT WERE CLEAN?
ARGHH!
THEN JUST PUT UP A SIGN SAYING TO NOT ENTER!
THEN NEXT TIME I'LL JUST MAKE THE FIRST YEARS DO IT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO
I'LL THROW IT OUT...
OHHHHHH! SO HEAVYYY...Y?
IS THIS ALL?
SIGH

THAT'S OKAY...
IT MUST BE HEAVY FOR A SMALL PERSON!
THAT WAS ONE WORD TOO MUCH!
SUCH A BAD GUY.
HE MIGHT NOT BE..
SORRY FOR NOT NOTICING ANYTHING..
THE GYM TODAY IS SORT OF...
WEIRD?
I KNOW.

THE STAIRS TO THE WALK-WAY?
NO ONE'S COME TO WATCH ..
COULD IT BE...
PANT...
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER
FROM THE BOY'S AND GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAMS
IT'S IIDA'S WRITING

IT'S NOT LIKE I DID IT FOR YOU OR ANYTHING...
EVEN IF HE DIDN'T..
ARGHHH!
I'M STILL HAPPY.

I WAS THINKING OF STAYING TO PRACTICE FOR A BIT...
ARE YOU PRACTICING ALONE TOO, YUKIMURA?
HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, IIDA?
YEAH! EVERYONE ELSE HAD OTHER CLASSES SO THEY WENT HOME
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU STAYED BEHIND TOO, IIDA...
WHAT DO YOU PRACTICE?
SWEATER
WHO?
DU-
DUNKING
WHOAAA!!
YOU CAN DUNK?!
WOW!!
WOW!
HE WAS THINKING OF PRACTICING IN PRIVATE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I CAN'T.. THAT'S WHY I'M PRACTICING!!
13

DAAHAHH!
I CAN'T
IT ALWAYS HITS THE RIM...
RIM
BUT JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE AND IT WOULD HAVE GONE IN!
ALRIGHT!
ONE MORE TIME!

ARE YOU STUPID?!
IF YOU PRACTICE, YOU COULD STILL GET BETTER!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!!
IF ONLY I WAS AS TALL AS YOU..
THEN I WOULD ACTUALLY WANT TO PRACTICE SHOOTING AND STUFF..
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SHORT, I'LL NEVER GROW, AND I SUCK!!!
AND AFTER ALL, THE ONLY REASON I'M CAPTAIN IS BECAUSE WE DECIDED WITH ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS!!
SHE'S CRY-
AND WHEN NONE OF MY SHOTS GO IN, OR WHEN WE LOSE A GAME..
THOSE ARE THE TIMES WHEN I JUST WANT TO QUIT...

SO OKAY YOU WANT TO QUIT BASKET-BALL?
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
I SUCK, BUT I STILL LOVE IT!
IF YOU HAVE A TRICK TO GETTING SHOTS IN, CAN YOU TELL ME?!
YOU KNOW STUFF LIKE "I WANT TO WIN" OR "I'LL GET YOU BACK FOR THIS" OR "THANK YOU"?
YOU HAVE ALL THESE FEELINGS, RIGHT?
WHEN I SHOOT, I SHOOT LIKE I'M GIVING UP ALL THOSE FEELINGS TO THE NET.

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU COME 30 MINUTES EARLIER IN THE MORNING?
WHAT?
THE IMAGE
OF TELLING THAT IMPORTANT PERSON YOUR FEELINGS..
I THINK OF THE NET AS SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO ME..
AND I CREATE AN IMAGE
I'LL TRAIN YOU UNTIL THE GAME, SO COME
YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE, DO YOU?
I WANT TO WIN THE GAME
I WANT TO GET BETTER.
OKAY

THIS IS JUST EXTRA PRACTICE, ALRIGHT?
I'M NOT DOING IT FOR YOU OR ANYTHING...
JUST SAYING, THOUGH...
WHEN IDA'S NICE...
HE'S STUBBORN TOO!
ALRIGHT!

6
WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING AT??
HA HA.
NOTHING
HE'S STARTING THE SAME THING AGAIN.
I'LL NEVER QUIT BASKETBALL!
7
8
AND I WON'T LET OUR TEAM BE CANCELLED!
10
11
I CAN'T GIVE UP! I HAVE TO KEEP ON GOING!!
13

THERE'S ALWAYS THIS BAD FEELING...
WHEN THE COACH CALLS JUST THE CAPTAIN...
YUKIMURA COME HERE FOR A MINUTE!
ONE?
YOU MEAN WE CAN ONLY USE THE COURT ONCE A WEEK?! WHY?!
THE PRINCIPAL AND I DECIDED IT!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT WE DRILL THE BOYS HARDER RIGHT NOW!
I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER! THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HEARING THIS!
SILENT DEBATE
OUTSIDE SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH!

PLEASE, AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL THE AFTER GAME NEXT WEEK!
WE'VE ALL BEEN PRACTICING HARD NON-STOP..
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN AGAINST A TEAM THAT STRONG!!
YOUR NEXT GAME IS AGAINST THE HINO MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
THE SCHOOL THAT'S ATTACHED TO A UNIVERSITY?
SO NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PRACTICE...
SPORTS ARE ALL ABOUT SKILL, SO JUST GIVE IT A REST

THEN DO YOU MEAN THAT PEOPLE WITHOUT SKILL...
AREN'T ALLOWED TO TRY?!

I DON'T MIND..
BUT LIKE I SAID, IT'S A WASTE OF TIME!
I....
HMMM?
I'M NOT SAYING THE WRONG THING, AM I..?
.....
AT THAT TIME...

I STILL DIDN'T REALIZE...
YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING WRONG!!
HOW CLOSE WE WERE BECOMING
LUNCH
YOU KNOW, THESE DAYS, TSUBAKI...
YOU AND IIDA ARE HITTING IT OFF TOGETHER, EH?? PRACTICING TOGETHER AND WHAT NOT...
AW~ NO WAY!!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
MUNCH MUNCH
UMMM, IT'S GOOD

OH!
I HAVE TO GET GOING TO PRACTICE NOW.
DON'T WANT TO KEEP HIM WAITING!!!
I SEE...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED, THEN IT WOULD BE TOO AWKWARD PRACTICING TOGETHER!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
OH... YOUNG'UNS...
OH, I'M SO FULL
TO TELL THE TRUTH...
IT'S JUST ON MY MIND, I GUESS...

IT'S NOT FAIR YOU'RE IN A SKIRT!!
BUT..
PRACTICING AS FRIENDS
IS A LOT MORE EASIER AND FUN
I'M WEARING SHORTS UNDERNEATH!
POST-MEAT EXERCISING
?!
NOOOOOO!!
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CARE!
HAHA
I HAVEN'T LOST A SINGLE GAME YET!
THAT'S IT, I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY NICE ANYMORE
ANY NORMAL GUY WOULD CARE

AHH!!
ONE MORE POIN-
...!!
...?!
OWWWWW!!!
YOU PLAYED ROUGH, AND I'M A GIRL!!!
WELL, YOUR GAME'S TOMORROW, RIGHT? I TOLD YOU THAT I WOULDN'T PLAY NICE...
YOU HIT MY FACE!
LET'S SEE...
OHHH, WHAT A FACE!!
WAIT!!
HA HA HA
OR WAS THIS FROM BEFORE?
EXCUSE ME?!

MY FACE ISN'T..

THAT WAS A LIE...
WHAT...
YOU'RE CUTE..
WHAAAT?!?!
KI
TSUBAKI?!

HUH?
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG BALL!
SOCCER BALL
FIRST YEAR C MARU TAMAKO
YOU KNOW TOMORROW'S THE GAME, RIGHT?
YAWN
AHH!!
I WAS BEING WATCHED!!!
I... I CAN'T!!
I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE FACE!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING TSUBAKI?!
I'M GOING TO WASH MY FACE!

I....
IT'S THE FIRST TIME..
I'VE FELT SO NERVOUS
MIGHT HAVE A CRUSH.. ON HIM..
THESE FEELINGS THAT I'VE JUST REALIZED
I CAN'T PUT THEM INTO WORDS...
NOT YET...
I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE GYM NOW

YEAH, BUT..
WE COULDN'T FIND YOU, SO HE WAS LIKE "IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER"..
HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME?
HE LEFT JUST AS YOU CAME IN, TOO..
IF YOU GO NOW, YOU MIGHT CATCH HIM.
THANKS, I'LL GET GOING...
RE...
REMEDIAL?!
I HEARD HE GOT AN F IN SCIENCE!
WHAT?!
NOW HE'S IN THE LAB GETTING SCIENCE REMEDIAL

IIDA...!!!
YU...!
生物
UH.. UM..
I HEARD YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME, SO..
I...
I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE FACE!
OH..
I HAD SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU..
THIS
WRISTBANDS?

I ALWAYS WEAR THEM FOR IMPORTANT GAMES
LIKE GOOD LUCK CHARMS
SINCE YOU ALWAYS STRAIN YOUR WRISTS, TOO!
I CAN B-BORROW THEM??
IF MINE ARE GOOD ENOUGH,
YOU CAN HAVE THEM...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME FEELING NERVOUS LIKE THIS...
BUT IT'S ALSO THE FIRST TIME...
THAT I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU MY FEELINGS.
THANKS ..!!
HUH?!
...!
I-!!!
I'VE DECIDED!

ALL MY SHOTS TODAY...
THEY'LL BE FOR YOU, IIDA!
PUT MY FEELINGS
INTO THE BASKETBALL
AND...
ND, ABOUT
YESTERDAY...
I DIDN'T MIND IT AT ALL!!
WAIT
YUKIMURA!
PLEASE LET IT GET THROUGH TO IIDA!

PLEASE LET GO OF MY HAND...
CAN'T I COME IN FOR REMEDIAL TOMORROW?
NO!

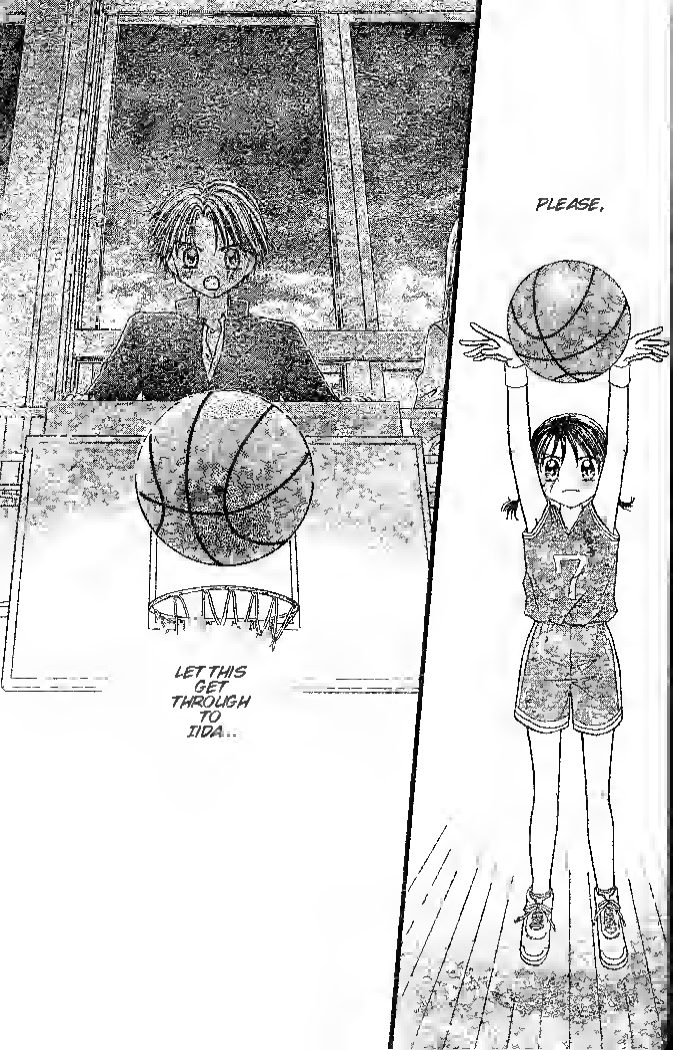
HACHIMITSU TO CLOVER
HINO UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
27—32
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE AHEAD...
I WON'T GIVE UP!
33—41
HACHIMITSU TO CLOVER
HINO UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

BECAUSE...
IF I GIVE UP, THEN IT'S OVER!!
HIGHTIMBO
35
47
HALFTIME!
12 POINTS...
YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT...?
IF IT WERE JUST US, THEY'D BE MORE AHEAD, DON'T YOU THINK?
DEFINITELY
BUT THANKS TO TSUBAKI, WE'RE NOT!
ME?

YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER FROM THOSE MORNING SESSIONS, HAVEN'T YOU!!
THE REASON...
LET'S REBOUND THIS LAST HALF!!
YEAH!
YEAH!
THAT I'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR
IS ALL THANKS TO...
!!
IDAP!

IIDA ..
HE CAME TO WATCH
LAST HALF
I'LL PLAY MY BEST ..
SO STAY WITH ME UNTIL THE END...

AND..
GOES MY FEELINGS OF THANKS..
INTO THIS BALL
HACHIMAGO
HINO
6 9
6 7
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T QUIT BECAUSE I WAS SHORT..
HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU...

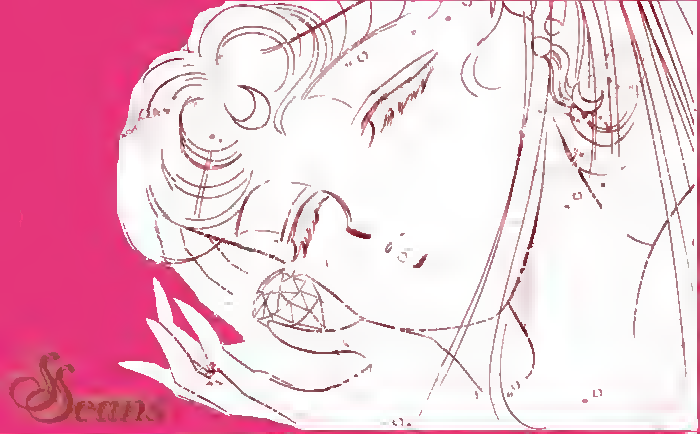

PLEASE,
LET THIS GET THROUGH TO IIDA..

GAME SET...
WE LOST
DON'T SNEAK OFF AGAIN!
IIDA...

IIDA!
YUKIMURA?
YOU WEREN'T WAITING ALL THIS TIME, WERE YOU?!
I WAS... AND YOU KNOW WHAT...
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
I'M SORRY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE
I'M SO SORRY!!
YOU TRAINED ME SO HARD...
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T WIN...!

HE ISN'T GOING TO CANCEL THE TEAM
HE SAID THAT
REALLY ...?
THE COACH SAID IT WAS SUCH A GOOD GAME,
WHAT ...?
YOU KNOW, AFTER THE GAME...
MY FEELINGS THAT I PUT INTO THE BALL...
EVENTHOUGH THE LAST SHOT DIDN'T MAKE IT..
GOT THROUGH TO THE TEACHER, TO EVERYONE ..

AND LAST OF ALL..
YOUR FEELINGS...
GOT THROUGH TO ME JUST FINE!
THEY GOT THROUGH TO THE PERSON I LOVE...
YEP...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